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OPSEU buys former Frost Centre

by CHAD INGRAM
Editor

The Ontario Public Service Employees Union has purchased the former Frost Centre south of Dorset.

“We’ve been looking for a fairly long time to create a training centre,” OPSEU president Warren “Smokey” Thomas told the *Times*. Thomas explained the union hosts a variety of conferences and training events for its members, including stewards, local presidents, treasurers, etc., and their families. “We do some retreats every year,” he said. “We’ve always been reliant on hotels.”

Used as a Ministry of Natural Resources training and research facility for decades, the Leslie M. Frost Natural Resource Centre was

closed by the provincial government in 2004. Between 2008 and 2010, the facility, which sits on the shores of St. Nora Lake, was used as an environmentally focused private school. It has sat vacant for the past decade and in November, the province, through Crown corporation Infrastructure Ontario, commercially listed the 40-plus-acre property for sale through CBRE (Coldwell Banker Richard Ellis) Limited Real Estate Brokerage.

The property was severed from a larger 26,000-hectare parcel of Crown land. It houses some 20 buildings, including a dining hall, dormitories, former educational spaces and various outbuildings.

The listing price was \$1.1 million, with interested parties submitting bids. Thomas was notified through a union member that

see SUBSTANTIAL page 3

Province issues ‘stay-at-home order’

by CHAD INGRAM
Editor

As of 12:01 a.m. on Thursday, Jan. 14, Ontarians will be required to stay home except for what the Ford government is calling “essential purposes,” including going to grocery stores, pharmacies, medical appointments, and for exercise or “essential” work, for 28 days, amid

the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

An announcement on Jan. 12 was scant on specific details of what constitutes “essential,” and how enforcement would work.

According to a press release from the province, outdoor gatherings will be restricted to a maximum of five people who are not part of the same household. “All non-essential retail stores, including hardware stores, alcohol retailers, and those offering curbside pickup or delivery, must open no earlier than 7 a.m.

see ENHANCED page 12



Minden welcomes first baby of the year

Hunter Paul Boesveld, the first baby born in Haliburton County with support from the Midwifery Services of Haliburton-Bancroft, was born at home in Minden on Jan. 8, at 3:55 a.m., weighing eight pounds, 12 ounces. See story on page 14. /Submitted photo

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Vaccine ‘likely’ not available in Haliburton until the summer

by **MIKE BAKER***Local Journalism Initiative Reporter*

While rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine is well underway in some parts of Ontario, one local doctor, as well as the acting medical officer of health for the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit [HKPRDHU] are warning Haliburton County residents that it will likely be “many months” before a vaccine is readily available in our area.

In a phone interview with the Times last week, Dr. Ian Gemmill, the acting medical officer of health with HKPRDHU, outlined exactly how the vaccine is being released across Ontario and why it’s going to take so long for doses to reach our region.

“The province of Ontario are the ones making the vaccine available to the public, and it’s going to be done via a schedule of priorities. Those sets of priorities are being devised by a vaccine task-force,” Dr. Gemmill said. “Where we are right now, the plan is to implement this in different phases.”

Phase one launched on Dec. 14, 2020 when more than 2,500 healthcare workers who provide care in select long-term care homes and hospitals were vaccinated at the University Health Network in Toronto and The Ottawa Hospital. In the weeks since, the government has distributed approximately 90,000 of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine and 50,000 doses of the Moderna vaccine to 17 hospital sites across the GTA, London, Ottawa, Windsor and Thunder Bay. The vaccine was made available to healthcare workers, essential caregivers, long-term care home and retirement home residents and First Nation communities and urban Indigenous populations within those areas.

Under phase one, the Ontario government estimates that more than 20 hospitals across the province will be administering the COVID-19 vaccines.

“These vaccines – not a lot of it is being delivered to Canada right now. There simply isn’t enough to cover everyone in Ontario, far from it,” Dr. Gemmill said. “The first geographical areas being done are areas with the highest preponderance with coronavirus – so places around the GTA, and other areas like Ottawa. With the limited amounts of the vaccine we have now, that’s where the focus is.”

He added, “Right now, Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge, and our communities, are not on that list. We have not yet been notified of the availability of the vaccine for our critically-important groups for our area, but have been notified to be on stand-by. Things could change on a day’s notice.”

Dr. Norm Bottum, from the Haliburton Highlands Family Health Team, believes it could be mid to late February before all frontline workers and long-term care residents in Haliburton County are administered a vaccine.

“That’s my hope, but I don’t know if that’s more wishful thinking,” Dr. Bottum noted.

While the public health unit will be involved in an advisory capacity in the gradual rollout of the vaccine to frontline workers and long-term care residents, Dr. Gemmill said most of the leg work would likely be done by Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS), since the vaccines will be delivered to and stored within the facility’s freezers.

Carolyn Plummer, president and CEO of HHHS informed the Times that the hospital has not yet been given any details regarding timelines for the initial number of vaccine doses that are to be received in Haliburton County.

“We have been advocating strongly to receive the vaccine sooner rather than later, particularly with the recent rise in COVID-19 cases in our area,” Plummer said. “Our community has done a wonderful job so far in helping to keep the prevalence low, and all the healthcare providers in our community have been working tirelessly to keep our patients, long-term care residents, and many others in the community as safe as possible – so we are doing everything we can to make sure the vaccine is made available as quickly as possible to support these efforts.”

Phase two will begin when more doses of the vaccine be-



Dr. Ian Gemmill, acting medical officer of health, said 2021 is the year the population can be immunized against COVID-19, and said the vaccine is the “bright light at the end of the tunnel.”/Photo submitted by HKPRDHU

come available in Ontario, and will be expanded to include additional congregate care settings, such as homeless shelters, and adults over the age of 70 in select regions. According to the Ontario government website, the province’s task force, led by retired military general Rick Hillier, will use ethical framework and best available data to identify other priority populations, notably lower age groups, within phase two, based on available vaccine supply.

While the government says phase two will likely be implemented this winter, Dr. Gemmill believes a more realistic likelihood is that it will be stretched out to the summer.

Things could change, Dr. Gemmill says, if the federal government approves further vaccines, such as the AstraZeneca vaccine that has been developed at Oxford University in the UK.

“There is not just one vaccine for COVID-19, there are several vaccines. It just so happened that the first ones approved [in Canada] required freezing,” Dr. Gemmill said. “I’m very hopeful that we’re going to have different vaccines available soon. One for example, Oxford’s AstraZeneca, is not yet licensed, but is fridge stable. That is going to change everything. We wouldn’t have to worry about freezers. That vaccine would allow us to do mass campaigns in the same way we do influenza vaccines every year. That would make things much, much easier.”

The UK became the first country to approve the Oxford AstraZeneca vaccine on Dec. 30, with the first dose administered just a few days later. Ontario Premier Doug Ford has called on Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to approve its use in Canada and secure doses so that it can be rolled out to residents who want and need it.

One of the major benefits of the AstraZeneca vaccine, Dr. Gemmill says, is that it can be fully administered in a single dose, while both the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines require two shots given several weeks apart.

Before Christmas, the feds exercised options to purchase 20 million doses of the Pfizer vaccine and 40 million doses of the Moderna vaccine. Procurement Minister Anita Anand informed CBC on Sunday [Jan. 10] that the government had chosen not to exercise a further option to purchase an additional 16 million doses of the Moderna vaccine.

Anand said the doses the Canadian government had already ordered would ensure that anyone who wants the COVID-19 vaccine will be able to receive it by September.

A third and final phase of vaccine distribution here in Ontario will kick in once there are enough doses available for anyone who wants to be immunized – likely late summer, or early fall.

With around 11,000 patients across Haliburton County, at least half of them over the age of 65, the Haliburton Highlands Family Health Team is the community’s largest family clinic. Staff have been inundated with calls in recent weeks as residents try to find out when they can get their shot.

“We have a lot of seniors. I don’t have an exact number for you, but we have the highest percentage of seniors to population anywhere in the province. We have a lot of people over the age of 80 who still live at home doing what they can to keep mentally and physically fit, waiting for the vaccine to come,” Dr. Bottum said.

He continued, “The government has committed to trying to get people in Canada immunized by September, but that’s still

nine months away. For many people, it’s probably going to be July, August, September by the time we have enough vaccines to give to people. So the general public, I would say, will probably have a long wait ahead of them.”

Dr. Gemmill informed the Times that, to the best of his knowledge, there had been zero vaccines administered thus far in Haliburton County. We were able to identify one former area resident, Kristen Bell, as having recently received the vaccine. A registered nurse whose parents were longtime residents of the county, Bell was given her shot at a clinic in Barrie last week.

“The process was really easy... and took very little time. It was just a consent, quick jab and [staff] watch you for 15 minutes to make sure you are ok. I’ll go back to receive my second shot in two weeks,” Bell told the Times.

Even though she was among the first percentile of Ontarians to receive the new vaccine, Bell says she wasn’t nervous at all to get the shot.

“It is important for me to become vaccinated to protect myself, my family and the vulnerable populations I care for on a daily basis. The more people who are vaccinated, the less community spread we should see,” Bell said. “These vaccines are well researched and I have to put my trust in this research. Without vaccines we cannot control this disease.”

Dr. Gemmill offered his opinion that the COVID-19 vaccines presently on the market were “quite safe.”

“The only indication saying you shouldn’t get the vaccine is a previous life-threatening allergic reaction to any of its components,” Dr. Gemmill said. “Right now, there have been hundreds of thousands, if not millions of doses given across the world. I’ve heard of a couple of situations of allergic reactions, but they seem to be very uncommon. It is quite a safe vaccine. I don’t foresee there being any major difficulty [for people getting it].”

In his research, Dr. Bottum said he found one report that states the incidence rate of allergic reaction to the COVID-19 vaccines on the market is five per million, while another report outlines a slightly higher rate, at 11 incidents per million.

“The odds of having a reaction are pretty small. The odds of us getting one in Haliburton County, if we’re going off 11 in one million, there may be one to get a bad allergic reaction, so I think people are pretty safe. We just need to be careful about it,” Dr. Bottum said.

When available, the COVID-19 vaccine will be free to all Ontario residents, Dr. Gemmill confirmed. As of 10:30 a.m. on Monday [Jan. 11], there had been 122,105 total doses administered across Ontario, with 5,884 vaccinations considered complete.

Updated COVID-19 statistics provided some grim reading over the weekend, with Ontario reporting a record-high new COVID-19 case count on Sunday, with 3,945 new cases and 61 new deaths. As of press time, Ontario had 30,632 active cases of COVID-19.

Here in the HKPR district health unit there are 70 active cases – three in Haliburton County, 38 in the City of Kawartha Lakes and 29 in Northumberland County, with one additional “probable case” in the Kawarthas. There are a further 101 high-risk contacts across the region, with two of those located here in Haliburton.

Both Dr. Gemmill and Dr. Bottum reiterated the same line of messaging, asking that local residents respect the rules of Ontario’s current lockdown, in place until at least Jan. 23, and stay home whenever possible.

“I think we’re seeing the repercussions now from the Christmas break. Hopefully by next week we will see some reduction in the numbers, otherwise the lockdown could go on even longer,” Dr. Bottum said. “There were a lot of cases over the holidays, and it was down to people gathering with family and friends.”

Dr. Gemmill added, when referencing the increased number of cases in recent weeks, “It’s definitely down to people who are travelling, who are gathering unnecessarily for social situations. Don’t travel. Don’t gather, because that’s what’s driving the spike at the moment. Until we get the vaccine, that’s what we need to do.”

Dr. Bottum noted that his patients would be informed as soon as they’re able to be vaccinated, while Dr. Gemmill hinted there would be a campaign to ensure even those without family doctors would be notified when the vaccine becomes readily available.

“Let’s look at 2021 as the year of getting our population immunized against this virus and stopping it in its tracks. I don’t think we’ll completely get rid of the virus, but certainly we will be able to control it,” Dr. Gemmill said. “The vaccine is the bright light at the end of the tunnel, and I’m very excited that over the next few months we’ll be able to offer this vaccine to anyone in Ontario that wants it.”

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County begins 2021 budgeting process

by CHAD INGRAM
Editor

Haliburton County councillors got their first crack at the county's 2021 budget during a Jan. 11 online meeting.

That meeting included a budget overview from chief administrative officer Mike Rutter and treasurer Elaine Taylor, as well as departmental budget overviews from each of the county's department heads.

"Each year, staff try to present a draft budget that incorporates the direction we received in long-term planning documents," Rutter said, adding this included such documents as documents as the county's asset management plan, strategic plan, and climate change mitigation plan.

The draft budget contains a 3.86 per cent tax rate increase at the upper-tier level.

"We do know this is a very challenging year, and that may result in more changes than we've seen in the past," Rutter said, adding staff realized a 3.86 per cent increase may be difficult for some at this time.

And while there is a decrease in funding from the federal and provincial governments, Rutter noted that modernization and COVID-19 recovery funding the county has received has been helpful and that without it, "this would be a very different looking budget."

A number of items in the budget, the hiring of an intermediate planner on a two-year basis, for example, are budgeted to be paid for through this funding.

The draft budget includes an additional \$50,000 for physician recruitment, \$66,000 for the completion of a development charges study, and \$88,000 for wages, benefits and resources associated with the creation of shoreline preservation bylaw officer position.

The county's draft shoreline preservation remains under review, with councillors scheduled to discuss the bylaw again during a Jan. 13 meeting.

"There's some discussion to be had ... starting Wednesday, on shoreline preservation and thoughts councillors have there," said Algonquin Highlands Deputy Mayor and County Warden Liz Danielsen, adding she

thought council should wait until further discussion on the bylaw to make any decisions regarding that line item.

"There's a number of things I'd like to ruminate on, and I'm sure others, as well," said Algonquin Highlands Mayor Carol Moffatt, wondering what the plan was for further budget discussions, suggesting she'd like to see targeted discussions around particular parts of the budget.

Rutter said the budget would be included as a discussion item on county agendas until such time as council was comfortable passing it, which he said ideally would happen by March.

"We can do whatever you want us to do," Rutter said, adding staff reports could be brought back with more information on any specific topics.

Substantial renovations required

from page 1

the property was for sale. "Apparently, there were multiple bids," he said.

OPSEU's bid was for \$3.2 million, and Thomas found out just before Christmas had been successful.

It will likely be two to three years before the union begins using the facility.

"It needs extensive renovations," Thomas said, adding the first task would be to install new roofs on the buildings. He noted OPSEU may not use all of the buildings on-site.

"The bones are good, is what we've been told," Thomas said of the buildings, adding most would likely be gutted, their interiors renovated. "It probably all needs to be redone."

As for that renovation work, "We use union whenever possible ... and we use unionized trades when possible," he said. "And we try to use local."

There are no plans for new construction.

"We won't be building any new buildings," Thomas said, adding all easements over the property for access to trails and a boat will be respected. Thomas also said OPSEU would be open to community collaboration on use of the property.

The former Frost Centre is located in the Township of Algonquin Highlands and Mayor Carol Moffatt has been in communication with Thomas, who gave her a call to inform of the union's purchase of the property.

"The revitalization of the historic property as an education facility will provide many employment opportunities across a range of fields," Moffatt wrote in a social media post. "President Thomas and I spoke of the many opportunities for collaboration and partnership between the facility and the community at large; and I look forward to helping broker some local connections."

Back in 2013, the township had been offered the opportunity to purchase the facility. As Moffatt wrote, "the condition of the property and potential costs of purchase and necessary work was determined to well beyond the scope and capacity of the municipality."

In November, Algonquin Highlands council ratified the township's purchase of the building that houses its trails office and the triangular piece of property it sits on, previously part of the Frost Centre complex. The township had previously leased the space from the province, paying about \$250,000 for its purchase.

Danielsen vice chair of EOWC


by CHAD INGRAM
Editor

Haliburton County Warden Liz Danielsen has been appointed vice-chair of the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus for the year.

"It is my honour and distinct pleasure to serve as vice chair of the EOWC for 2021 and I welcome the opportunity to advocate for the 750,000 residents that are supported by the work of this organization," Danielsen said in a statement, "Of course, I will work to ensure the needs of rural Ontarians are understood, as a result of my experience serving as an elected official within the County of Haliburton."

The EOWC represents 13 upper-tier and single-tier municipalities in Eastern Ontario, including 90 local municipalities, advocating on their behalf to upper levels of government. The EOWC also owns the Eastern Ontario Regional Network, which is responsible for a number of broadband expansion projects in the region.

Danielsen, who is the deputy mayor of Algonquin Highlands, became warden of the county for the third consecutive year during a December meeting, after her name was drawn from an envelope after council cast a tie vote between Danielsen and challenger, Minden Hills Mayor Brent Devolin, who'd also put his name forward to serve as warden for the year. She's been deputy mayor in Algonquin Highlands since 2010.



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(VIRTUAL) COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council and Committee of the Whole meetings are currently being conducted virtually via web conference and Closed Session meetings via teleconference, until further notice. Meetings begin at 9:00 AM unless otherwise noted.

The schedule of upcoming meetings are:
January 14 – Budget Committee Meeting
January 28 – Regular Council Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by joining a live-stream link available on the township website at [www.minden hills.ca/council/](#) or by using the direct link provided in the notice. We encourage those wishing to view the meeting to also download the agenda, as it will not be displayed during the streaming process. Meeting agendas can be downloaded by visiting our website at [www.minden hills.ca/council/](#).

Please note the live-stream link provided for each meeting will only be activated while Council is in session.

TAX STATEMENTS FOR INCOME TAX PURPOSES

Requests for Tax Statements can be mailed to the following address, or placed in the Township drop box labelled and located on the north wall of the Administration building facing Pritchard Lane and the Municipal parking lot. It is accessed from the wheelchair entrance and is at the top of the first ramp. **Absolutely no cash is to be deposited in the drop box.**

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Requests must be accompanied by a cheque for the applicable fee of \$10.00, for **each** property roll.

Requests will be processed in accordance with COVID-19 safety protocols, so please allow a minimum of two (2) weeks for processing. If your request does not include all of the required information or fee, the Township will not be held responsible for any delays in providing the requested information.

WINTER SAND

Winter sand is now available at the upper parking lot of the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Community Centre, by the Skate Park. Please note this is for **Individual Use Only** – No Commercial Users please.

RIVERWALK WINTER USAGE & WETLANDS BOARDWALK UPDATE

The Boardwalk is currently closed until further notice. The Logger's Crossing Bridge is cleared of snow regularly but is not sanded or salted. Residents are advised to "Exercise Caution" when using pathways as they could develop slippery conditions.

WASTE REDUCTION TIP

Switching from sandwich bags to reusable containers and jars can save you \$60-\$120 per year! Go one step further by reusing pasta and jam jars – they cost you nothing extra and last for years.

LANDFILL SAFETY

Please continue to observe social distancing practices when you visit a Minden Hills waste site. Leave 2m (6ft) between yourself and others on site. Thank you!

NOTICE – 2021 BUDGET DELIBERATIONS

The Council of the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills will commence the 2nd round of its 2021 Budget deliberations during its Special Council Meeting via web conference scheduled for January 14, 2021.

Trisha McKibbin, CAO/Clerk
705-286-1260 ext. 505
[tmckibbin@minden hills.ca](#)

Schools to remain closed until Jan. 25 as COVID-19 cases rise

by **SUE TIFFIN**
Times Staff

On the same day the province reported a single-day record of 3,519 new cases of COVID-19, as well as a record high number of 89 deaths, Ontario's chief medical officer of health announced elementary students in southern Ontario will not be returning to in-person learning at schools this week as scheduled. Instead, online learning will continue until Jan. 25, aligning with the plan already in place for secondary students. Elementary and secondary students in the northern part of the province will return to school as planned on Jan. 11, but the lockdown period currently in place in the southern parts of the province will be extended to the northern part as well.

The announcement was made by Dr. David Williams, at a 3 p.m. media briefing on Jan. 7.

"This has been a significant week for us," said Williams, noting the high number records of the day and adding the hope was that the numbers would start decreasing, although he admitted they could also increase to 4,000 per day due to community transmission.

"With the public health trends where they are across the province, our priority remains keeping students, teachers, school staff, and all Ontarians safe," Premier Doug Ford said in a press release distributed at the same time as the media briefing. "We have to get the numbers down and today's measures will help us continue to stop the spread of this deadly virus."

At a photo opportunity earlier that day, Premier Doug Ford told reporters that one in five kids under the age of 13 in Ontario being tested are now positive for COVID-19.

"That's not mentioning all the other kids



In a Jan. 7 press conference, Ontario's chief medical officer of health, Dr. David Williams, announced that as COVID-19 cases and the number of related deaths rise in the province, elementary school students will not return to in-school class this week as scheduled, instead returning on Jan. 25./ Screenshot from CPAC

that haven't been tested that might have a runny nose or a cough," Ford told CBC reporters.

Williams said despite the province-wide shutdown that began on Dec. 26, data has not shown a reduction in positive case numbers as hoped, and that trends in health system capacity and community transmission were "concerning."

"Targeted testing done among students and staff in December 2020 confirmed that schools are not a significant source of transmission," reads the Jan. 7 press release from the Ontario government. "However, with stu-

dents having been at home for several weeks and with reports of concerning behaviour over the holidays, the positivity rate among school-aged children has increased sharply. Most troubling, the positivity rate for kids aged 12-13 years old increased from 5.44 per cent in late November, early December to nearly 20 per cent in early January."

Prior to the announcement, some public health units – including Windsor-Essex and Guelph – had already planned to keep schools closed regardless of the province's decision.

Thursday's announcement is a reversal from the government's consistent messaging, as early as this week, that schools would stay open. When reporters asked why the plan changed, and with such short notice for parents to plan and prepare for the extended closure, Williams said the case numbers continue to look "very disappointing," and so more time is needed prior to opening safely. "I have and remain firmly committed to getting students back into class as soon as possible - there is nothing more important," said Stephen Lecce, minister of education, in Thursday's press release. "However, the best medical and scientific experts have been clear: while schools have been safe places for kids, the sharp rise in community transmission puts that progress and Ontario families at risk. During this time, students will remain engaged in live teacher-led online learning with access to enhanced mental health and technology supports." On Jan. 2, before students enrolled in in-class learning were anticipating beginning a week of virtual learning after the holiday break on Jan. 4, Lecce wrote an open letter to parents, which was shared by the Trillium Lakelands District School Board on Jan. 5.

In that letter, Lecce said it had been a trying year for all Ontarians, but said the province had come together, "most especially inspired by our students, parents and education staff."

He thanked parents for their dedication, and said, "We believe so strongly that schools are essential to the well-being, mental health and development of a child, and therefore, must be safeguarded at all costs to ensure they can remain open for safe in-class instruction."

The province-wide shutdown beginning Boxing Day put in place "time-limited public health and workplace safety measures to help ensure our schools remain safe, to stop the spread of COVID-19 transmission in communities, and to save lives," wrote Lecce last week. "Now, while leading medical experts have been clear that schools are not a source of rising community transmission, we can and will be an important part of the solu-

tion to save lives from COVID-19."

He said the government was following the advice of the chief medical officer of health "by taking proactive and preventative action to protect schools following the holiday break," with elementary and secondary students across the province learning remotely for the first week of January. Elementary school students, as well as secondary school students in northern public health units, were expected to return to in-person class on Jan. 11, while all other secondary school students would return to class on Jan. 25. "I want to reassure parents that according to the province's leading doctors, our schools are safe, with eight out of ten schools in this province having no cases of COVID-19 and based on board reporting, 99.64 per cent of students have not reported a case of COVID-19," said Lecce. "The province has experienced a safe reopening because we developed a comprehensive, nation-leading plan in partnership with experts in the medical community."

As of Dec. 22, the last day the Ontario.ca summary of cases in schools page was updated, 7,292 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in school-related student, staff and unidentified individuals had been reported since September's school reopening. At that time, 976 schools of 4,828 in the province had a reported case, a percentage of just over 20 per cent.

On Jan. 6, the day before the school closure announcement, ETFO – the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario – which represents 83,000 elementary public school teachers, occasional teachers and education professionals across the province, distributed a press release calling on public health units to "reconsider return of all elementary students to in-class learning next week." The release said ETFO was asking medical officers of health "to prioritize community health and safety over politics."

"Educators know that in-person learning provides the most effective and equitable learning environment, but unfortunately we are at the height of this pandemic," said Sam Hammond, ETFO president. "It makes no sense for the government to send students, teachers and education workers back to school while the province is locked for another two to three weeks. Despite repeated calls for adequate safety measures, the government has refused to implement them in a misguided effort to save money, jeopardizing the health and safety of students, educators and their families."

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Move protects vulnerable, ETFO says

from page 4

The ETFO press release said that it was essential to protect those who are most vulnerable.

"The provincial government's failure to listen to the advice of medical professionals has resulted in the current crisis we are facing," said Hammond. "So now, we are asking public health units to use their authority to reconsider the decision to resume in-person learning for all elementary students on Jan. 11, particularly in communities where the rate of community transmission is high, and to implement asymptomatic surveillance testing in schools to ensure that we can better understand the role that schools are playing in the spread of the virus and base future decisions on sound data."

In that same press release, Dr. David Fisman, professor of epidemiology at the University of Toronto said: "There's a 10 per cent daily increase in ICU occupancy in Ontario right now. This is not the right time to restart in-person learning. We have to assume that there is a lot of asymptomatic COVID-19 in schools. It is irresponsible to send children and educators back to schools without knowing for sure that it is safe to do so." According to ETFO, the organization "continues to demand that the provincial government provide much-needed supports to families, especially during periods when schools are closed to in-person attendance."

"We also continue our advocacy to ensure that the government acknowledge and ad-

dress the disproportionate impact the pandemic has had on marginalized communities, in particular racialized and low-income families," said Hammond. "A safe return cannot be ensured unless urgent and immediate actions are taken to implement a safety plan that reduces class sizes, improves ventilation, and introduces broad in-school asymptomatic testing when in-person attendance resumes."

Data from licensed child care settings – both child care centres and agencies, which have remained open – has continued to be updated. As of Jan. 7, 1,630 confirmed cases in child care centres and homes have been reported since June 12, with 233 centres currently reporting a confirmed case, a percentage of 4.44 per cent, and 40 centres closed of 5,245 open child care centres. More information is available at ontario.ca/page/covid-19-cases-schools-and-child-care-centres.

On Jan. 7, 89 deaths due to COVID-19 were reported by the province, bringing the official death toll in the province to 4,856. More than 75 per cent of those deaths were long-term care residents. In Haliburton County, 39 local cases have been confirmed since March, three of those being unresolved. On Dec. 18, TLDSB spokesperson Sinead Fegan said the school board currently had no active cases. More information from the school board regarding COVID-19, remote learning supports for parents, and mental health and well-being resources is available at <http://www.tlidsb.on.ca>.

Minden Pride hosts virtual town hall

Allan Guinan is new chairperson of the Minden Pride committee, and will be hosting a town hall meeting via Zoom later this month.

Guinan has been a cottager in Minden Hills for 16 years, he and his husband recently building a home in and retiring to the county. Guinan led a Canadian design agency and has been involved with volunteer organizations at the provincial and federal levels.

"I have been involved with Minden Pride for two years," Allan said, "initially as volunteer co-ordinator and most recently as secretary and member of the management team. I am passionate about promoting and engaging with the local LGBTQ2+ community and continuing to build on the success

achieved by Minden Pride over the past five years," Guinan said in a release. He'll replace outgoing chair David Rankin. "On behalf of the committee, I would like to thank David Rankin for his leadership over the past three years," Guinan said. "I am pleased to report that David will remain on the committee as past chair."

Minden Pride will host a virtual town hall meeting on Thursday, Jan. 21 from 7 to 8:30 p.m., where Guinan will be introduced and the committee will go over plans for Minden Pride 2021 and beyond.

Those interested are asked to register by Jan. 19 at info@mindenpride.ca

- Staff

New Cases Reported Today							
0	0	9					
Haliburton	KawarthaLakes	Northumberland					
Total Confirmed Cases to Date *							
38	320	309	667				
Haliburton (HAL)	Kawartha Lakes (CKL)	Northumberland (NTH)	HKPRDHU				
*Note: Total cases by County and for the Health Unit overall may increase or decrease from previously reported counts as cases may be reassigned to or from the HKPRDHU based on case investigation and routine data cleaning.							
COVID-19 Contacts, Cases, Hospitalizations, and Deaths by County *							
County	Cases Not Resolved	Cases Resolved	Current High-Risk Contacts	Current Probable Cases	Hospitalizations (Total to date)	Deaths among Confirmed Cases	Deaths among Probable Cases
Haliburton	2	36	5	0	1	0	0
Kawartha Lakes	38	259	52	1	19	23	13
Northumberland	34	271	51	2	8	4	0
COVID-19 Contacts, Cases, Hospitalizations, and Deaths, HKPRDHU							
All Counties	Cases Not Resolved	Cases Resolved	Current High-Risk Contacts	Current Probable Cases	Hospitalizations (Total to date)	Deaths among Confirmed Cases	Deaths among Probable Cases
HKPRDHU	74	566	139 **	3	28	27	13

No new confirmed cases of COVID-19 were reported in Haliburton County by the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District health unit on Jan. 12. Two local cases remain unresolved, while there are currently five high-risk contacts noted by the health unit. In total, Haliburton County has seen 38 cases of COVID-19. For more information visit <http://www.hkpr.on.ca/Screenshot from HKPRDHU web site>.

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Taking flight

JUST BEFORE New Year's Eve, Ontarians discovered that Finance Minister Rod Phillips had balked public health recommendations surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic and taken a Christmastime trip to the Caribbean. While Phillips' attempts to create the impression he was still in Ontario with a series of deceitful videos and photos, including an incredibly stupid picture of him holding a stack of pancakes in his driveway, may make his scandal one of the more colourful, we have since learned that Phillips was just one of many politicians and other public figures to make international trips during the holidays.

**CHAD INGRAM**
Editor

Senator Don Plett released a video telling Canadians to stay at home during Christmas, saying the pandemic was forcing people to forgo tradition, "since we cannot travel and gather the way we normally would." Plett then boarded a plane for Mexico.

A number of Alberta MLAs and some federal MPs also chose to leave the country, and many of them, along with Phillips, have since resigned or been demoted from cabinet positions or other posts.

Canadians have rightly been outraged by these events. These politicians are all members of governments who've been telling us all to stay home for the sake of public health. To make the difficult but right

decision to resist seeing family and friends during the holidays. To make personal sacrifices for the greater good. For some of them to then hop aboard planes destined for places with white sand is not only hypocritical, it's a betrayal. It's a betrayal of trust. It also paints a picture of a cynical government structure where there are two sets of rules – one for the general population, and another for lawmakers.

Their set of rules, of course, is a lot more fun. It paints a picture of elitism and entitlement, of deception and deceit, where constituents get played like patsies.

I've heard the defence that, hey, they weren't breaking

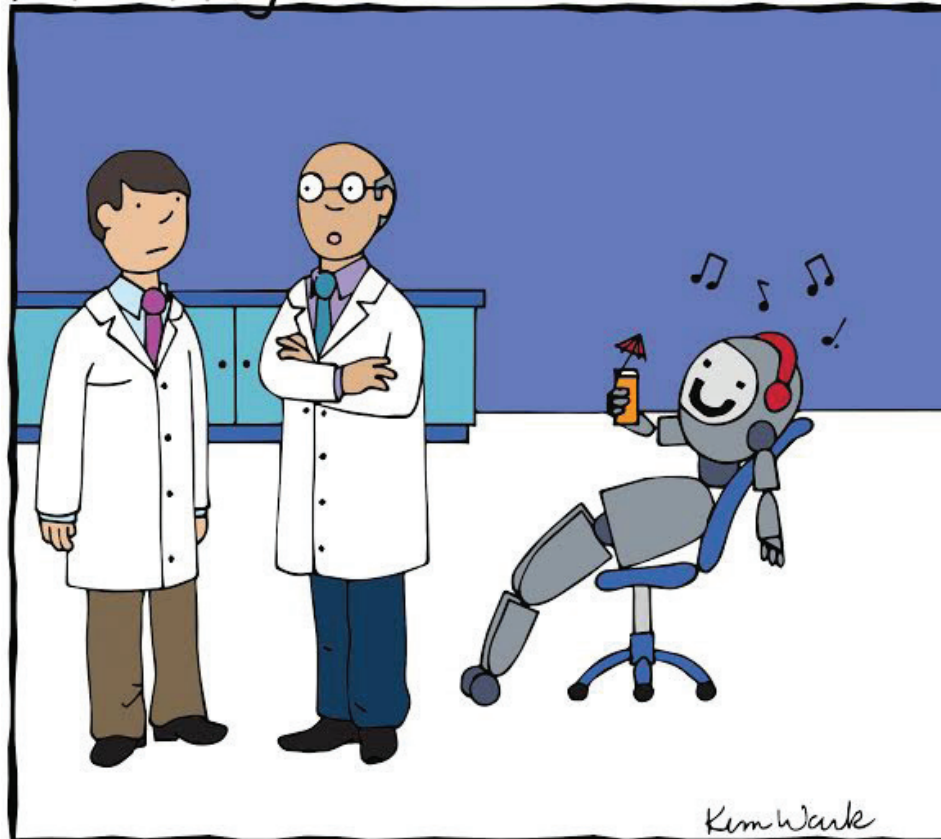
any laws, and that's true. But do we not want a bar higher than not breaking the law for officials who are elected to, well, make laws?

For close to a year now, we've heard the repeated mantras that we are all in this together, that it's time to hunker down, it's time to sacrifice. But it's clear we have some co-called leaders who aren't prepared to walk that talk, who are not prepared to make those sacrifices themselves.

Speaking of walking, some of them will undoubtedly be shown the door by their constituents should they choose to again run for office.

In the meantime, do better.

Kwarky



Kim Wark

"Someone taught him work-life balance."

The name game

JUST LAST WEEK, I received a phone call from the breeder who sold me my English Springer Spaniel Rosie.

He asked me what I would like to call her for the purposes of her pedigree papers. He suggested Narvin's (the kennel's name) plus whatever other fancy epithet I would like to add.

Typically, a registered kennel name is a descriptive variation of the dog's day to day call name, so I suggested Narvin's White Rose, since Rosie has a predominantly white body splotted with liver patches.

When the phone call was over, however, my mind wandered a little and I realized that I had missed a golden opportunity. After all this was intended to be a descriptive name and I might have done better had I given it a little more thought.

A few names immediately came to mind based on Rosie's past and present behaviour. Chief among those was Narvin's Counter Surfer.

Narvin's Couch Warmer would have been another viable option. There would have been nothing inaccurate about Narvin's Puddle Finder either. And, had he asked me this several months ago, I might have even replied with, "Narvin's Puddle Maker."

This also got me thinking about our 12-year-old Labrador retriever Millie. She never came from a fancy kennel like Rosie did, so she never did get a registered kennel name. That's not to say I don't call her quite a few descriptive names on occasion, however.

Nonetheless, if I was ever asked to declare a kennel name for her, Rug Scooter, Bacon Thief, Dinner Drooler or Minefield Maker would have all been in the running. Any of those would paint an accurate picture of what

Millie is about.

When you think about it, this might not be a bad system for people either. I know we are complex beings but a brief name that would hint at our more important characteristics would be extremely helpful in a lot of cases.

For instance, you might avoid people with a kennel names like Smith's Conspiracy Theorist, Melville's Flatulent Gasbag or Myrtle's Personal Space Invader. Likewise, you might seek out people with more pleasant kennel names such as Gray's Drinks on Me, William's Gullible Listener or Miller's Fishing Spot Sharer.

Having said all this, I understand these kennel names on dogs mean essentially nothing. At best, they make for an interesting ice breaker when talking to other dog owners. But they cannot begin to convey the character of a dog, especially one that has purpose.

Rosie, for instance, is a flushing dog – that, despite the name, is not toilet trained. Her sole purpose in life is to run free through the uplands looking for birds, squirrels and hares to flush and retrieve. She will also become a waterfowl dog come fall.

These are different tasks, but the central theme is that she uses her exquisite nose to find edible things. It doesn't even have to be an animal. The other day, I made myself a peanut butter and honey sandwich and some honey dripped onto the kitchen floor.

Rosie, immediately smelled it from several feet away, investigated and lapped it up. Later, I sat on the sofa and she jumped up and sniffed my face. I was expecting dog breath. Instead, I smelled honey.

It suddenly occurred to me that it didn't matter what I called her. For a Rose by any other name would smell as sweet.

**STEVE GALEA**
Beyond 35

IN OTHER WORDS

Columns and Letters to the Editor

Broken bricks, twisted numbers

SO MANY people are dying in California. Almost 30,00 people in the state have died from COVID-19. Three dozen or more perished last year in the state's 9,000-plus wildfires. Then there's the roughly 3,000 deaths a year from gun violence. Tens of thousands of tragic deaths that are of no remarkable interest to people living in distant places.

However, three recent California deaths grabbed my interest, reminding me dramatically just how fickle life is, and how our lives are connected.

A family of four was walking the Pacific Ocean shoreline when a rogue wave slammed into the beach. The dad and his two young children were carried off and drowned. The mom survived.



JIM POLING SR.

From Shaman's Rock

My daughter and her family live in the San Francisco area and took some interest in reports of the tragedy because they go to the beaches. They probably had walked the scene of the tragedy, a beach at Goat Rock State Park in Sonoma County, north of San Francisco.

My daughter says rogue waves seem to be increasing and this is backed by a variety of scientific studies. But the Goat Park drownings were just another beach tragedy and a warning to be cautious about ocean beach visits.

Just another, until I saw an unusual obituary notice in the *Toronto Globe and Mail*.

The obituary was about Michael Wyman and his children, Anna, 7, and John, 4, who were caught by a rogue wave and drowned at Goat State Park on Jan. 3. Why would the *Globe and Mail* publish the obituary for three Sonoma County people drowned while walking a California beach?

Then it struck me. Michael Wyman was a Canadian I knew when he was a child.

The Wymans lived in Ottawa not far from us when my family lived there many years ago. In fact, my daughter Marcella babysat Michael and his older sister Katrina.

More importantly, a neighbour and very close friend of ours was Michael's caregiver while his parents worked. Over the years he became like a member of her family, a third son and little brother. They remained close over the years.

Time moved on and people went their separate ways. Michael was a bright young man, nurtured by a well-educated mom and dad and what had become his second family, our friends up the street.

He got a terrific education, including degrees from Upper Canada College, the University of Toronto and Oxford. He earned a law degree, plus a Chartered Financial Analyst designation.

He practised corporate law in New York City and was involved in promoting solar power projects. It was in New York that he met and married Sarah Brennan, a scientist who studies cancer biology. They moved from New York in 2017 to fulfill a dream of living in California.

Michael drowned while holding onto his son and trying to reach his daughter. It was a scene described later as a horrid tragedy, but one marked with love and heroism.

His wife and bystanders pulled him from the surf but paramedics were unable to revive him. The bodies of the two children were swept out to sea.

Three days later, on the other side of the United States, there was another tragic scene – an American version of Kristallnacht, the 1938 violent attacks against Jewish people in Nazi Germany. Insurrectionists stormed the U.S. Capitol, in a mindless smashing and looting spree that ended with five people dead.

On one side of the country terrible misfortune marked with courage, intelligence and love. On the other side, tragedy marked by stupidity and hatred.

When I think about those two deadly incidents I want to stand up and scream: Why? Why do decent, intelligent people get taken away? People with brains, training and positive attitudes that help make our flawed world a better place.

Why do the stupid ones, whose only contributions to society are negative thoughts, negative actions and hatred, get to hang around trying to pull the rest of us down to their level?

They are no use in building a better society. They are like the twisted timbers and broken bricks that carpenters and masons toss aside when building the best of homes.

Why? There doesn't seem to be an answer.

letters to the editor

Budget bill a Trojan horse

To the Editor,

Are you familiar with the Ontario governments Bill 229, *Protect, Support and Recover from COVID-19 Act (Budget Measures)*, 2020, which was tabled for third reading and passed at Queens' Park on Dec. 8? Legislation, such as this, is referred to as an 'omnibus bill'.

Serious concerns have been expressed publicly about Bill 229, the majority of which relate to the very deliberate inclusion of Schedule 6 conservation authorities Act. Many municipalities have made it quite clear that the traditional and present powers granted to Conservation Authorities under the "doctrine of public trust," to actively engage in the necessary stewardship for the lands under their care, must not be tampered with for the purpose of 'fast tracking' short-sighted development.

Excerpts from the Town of Mono council's open letter dated Nov. 25, 2020 to the Honourable Sylvia Jones, MPP for Dufferin-Caledon, offer representative concerns common to most municipalities which will be negatively affected through passage of Bill 229:

"We were not impressed with Schedule 6 to Bill 229. It undermines the power of conservation authorities to do their job. And we were particularly unimpressed when your government slipped these proposed changes to the

Conservation Authorities Act into a budget bill.

The CBC reported that David Crombie, a former Progressive Conservative federal cabinet minister and Toronto mayor, and six fellow members of Ontario's Greenbelt Council have resigned their positions in protest to Schedule 6. Crombie, named to a three-year term as chair in March 2018, said the Greenbelt Council has tried in vain to persuade the government to withdraw Schedule 6 from the bill.

"Ontarians can successfully realize the great values and benefits of the greenbelt through the effectiveness of watershed planning, the strength and resilience of the conservation authorities and the power of public participation and open debate," Crombie stated in his resignation letter.

"It is now clear that the government's direction ... disastrously assaults all three of these primary conditions," he wrote.

"This is not policy and institutional reform. This is high-level bombing and needs to be resisted."

Under the cover of our collective COVID-19 fatigue, this omnibus bill disastrously continues Ford's clearly established agenda to throw our environment "under the bus!"

**John Gibb
Minden**



Moose on the loose

Steve Glover submitted this photo of a moose making its way across Dudley Road.

DVD of the Month - January



From the Director of *The Full Monty*, and based loosely on real events from around the world, *Military Wives* follows a band of misfit women in England who, when faced with the absence of their loved ones serving in Afghanistan, form a choir on a military base. Personalities clash at first, but soon, unexpected bonds of friendship flourish, music and laughter transform their lives, and these women help each other to overcome their fears for loved ones in combat. Overheard in the rehearsal room one day, the ragtag bunch is invited to perform at the televised Festival of Remembrance, an international opportunity. Before they know it, the choir find themselves at the centre of a media sensation and global movement. *Military Wives* is a heart-warming tale about women helping each other through some of life's most difficult moments, whether professional or personal. Come check

out the DVD from Haliburton County Public Library today.

‘Everyone has a good story about Ron’

from page 8

by and see what he could do to assist, whether it be to cut firewood for someone, help around the yard, or generously share his garlic or maple syrup.

“One of Ron’s most often told stories involved his house fire that destroyed his home in the late seventies,” said Pipher. “He, his wife, Toos, and his children were all out of the house and so were safe, but they lost everything. They had only been in the community for a few years but by the next day, they were offered several places to live and when they went to one of them, the fridge was full, there were boxes of food on the table and there were diapers and boxes of clothing for everybody. All these years later, Ron was still amazed at and grateful for his community. He said that it was that that made him realize the importance of kindness and giving back to those around him wherever he was.”

“Over the past couple of weeks when I talk to people who knew Ron, there is always a story and often it revolves around a time when Ron heard that they were in need and offered to help immediately,” said Wales. “The stories range from Ron offering a family his house to live in, in Carnarvon when their house was burnt out recently, to someone needing help clearing away a tree that had fallen across their driveway. He would always spring into action.”

He did so for Wales and her husband Grahame last spring, when Grahame required surgery on his dominant hand.

“We had worked all winter making and glazing pots, getting ready to fire three huge kiln loads in the spring,” said Wales. “The kiln is a very large outdoor gas kiln, and the shelves are so heavy that I can not lift them off the ground, let alone over my head to stack the shelves for the pots. Ron and Joan immediately offered to help. They carried the pots out to the kiln shed, Ron stacked the shelves for loading - several hours work. Then they returned in a few days to unload the pots, and take the shelving down, only to repeat that process



Active and energetic, Ron Reid loved to be outdoors, enjoying canoeing, snowshoeing, time in the sugar bush and adventures with his family. /Submitted photo

two more times until all the pots were fired and on the shelves in the studio. That required at least six days work over a few weeks. Incredible!”

Pipher said the response to his passing has been indescribable, a month after his death she is still receiving two to three phone calls a day from people reaching out, and “everyone has a good story about Ron.”

“To just be so admired by so many people – most people can’t say that, but he never made enemies, that I know of,” she said. “He always just liked everybody and people liked him.”

Ron was, she said, “one of those people who was willing to help anybody who needed help at any time.”

His helpful nature led him to work with Help A Village Effort (H.A.V.E.) for nearly 40 years, becoming chairper-

son in 1998. He initiated a CIDA grant that provided over \$500,000 in funds over a three-year period to build wells for impoverished villages in rural India, raised funds every year, including through events held in Haliburton County, visited many of the villages in India – boarding a plane to Calcutta in his 60s for the first time to a destination outside of North America – to connect with international efforts and enthusiastically drew people in to the cause.

“In my humble opinion, my dear friend, Ron, is to be well respected, admired, and remembered as a long-standing, capable chairman of Help A Village Effort,” said Gerard Feltham, founder of H.A.V.E., on the organization’s website. “Ron enabled H.A.V.E. Canada to become a well-established international NGO which is providing safe drinking water

see REID’S page 10

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Yours to rediscover

Reid's 'outgoing spirit' motivated others

from page 9

to many very needy villages, particularly in India."

"He was a natural leader as far as inspiring the people around him and he was also, I think his outgoing spirit was great as far as needing to raise funds and motivate people," said Heffer, who joined Ron in working with H.A.V.E. "I think Ron took a lot of pleasure and pride in being able to do that and share that with people, too."

Ron's generous organizing nature served local families as well.

"He worked for many years with the Christmas basket program in Minden, organizing food and toy donations and distribution, helping numerous families in the community to have a good Christmas," said Wales. "And everyone wanted to volunteer because Ron was just so charismatic and joyful. He always had a smile on his face and a kind word for whomever he met."

Ron's children – Simon, Jody and Matt – remembered him as being a tireless supporter, driving to sports events to encourage and cheer them on, and sharing his enthusiasm for life with them.

"Growing up on the farm taught us so much and Dad seemed to know just about everything," said Simon at Ron's service. "From him I watched and I learned how to plant gardens, birth cows, build a house, slaughter rabbits, identify crayfish, use a chainsaw, though, perhaps, not safely, tap a maple tree, play hockey, read books, use duct tape to stop the bleeding, be a peacemaker, cut it up on the dance floor, talk to strangers, be a good husband, and smile through it all."

The loss of Toos in 2013 to Acute Myeloid



Ron Reid, right, helps a customer pick out the best garlic during the fourth annual garlic festival in Carnarvon. /FILE photo

Leukemia was a devastating loss to the family, and Simon said there were some dark times in which Ron "struggled to try to understand the path he was on."

Years later, after deciding to become a snowbird like his sisters during the winter, Ron was introduced to his sister's friend, Joan, and the pair formed a close relationship.

"Once Ron and I created a bond, we knew that at our age we needed to make every moment count," Pipher told the *Times*. Together they went golfing, travelled to see friends and family, even a cruise – Ron's first.

"We loved our winters in Florida because we could golf, do aqua fit, play bridge, walk the paths, swim in the pool, play shuffle-

board, and visit with Florida friends," said Pipher. "As you can see, Ron was not a sit-and-do nothing kind of guy."

He left every February to get back to the farm, tap the maple trees and start his maple syrup production.

"His maple bush was one of his great passions and even as late as this year he was planning how to increase his maple output," said Pipher. "His eyes shone whenever maple syrup was mentioned."

"His love for making maple syrup was a glue that brought many friends, family and community together," said Jody during his service. "Annually we would pack his house with too many people to 'help' make maple

syrup and snowshoe through the trails. He loved his time in the bush and forged many strong friendships with those and others who would like to keep active in the outdoors with him."

His grandkids considered him a hero, she said, providing bottomless maple syrup that they called 'Boppa' syrup, and also offering summer camp excursions, endless four-wheeling trips, and bonfire nights.

"I think he was someone that truly lived life," said Heffer. "He loved life, but he was also one of those people that seemed to be able to live it to the fullest. The other thing is, he was, you don't hear this much but he was a spiritual man. He was involved in his church community. He was also thankful for life, I guess you could say ... He would sit down at the table, if we were having a meal together, he would always say a traditional grace and he would always express thanks for what was going on in his life. It was sort of the way he connected with people."

It's hard to imagine that Ron had time for other pursuits in his life, but he did – enjoying curling, softball, running, hockey, canoe trips, dancing and serving in his church. A memorial wall in his honour is filled with the connections he made during these outings, adventures, volunteer experiences and from his day-to-day activity.

"He undoubtedly made the world a better place in so many ways, but perhaps most by just being open to connection," said Simon, at Ron's service. "So next time you think, I should reach out – pull a Ron Reid. Just pick up the phone, jump in the car, and just show up. I'm sure you'll make someone's day awesome."

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The scenes at the rink this year were very different compared to last year, as seen with the under-nine hockey practice where a parent wears a mask in accordance with COVID-19 protocols on Thursday, Oct. 15 at the A.J. LaRue Arena in Haliburton. The Storm was preparing for their second session of the year, but have postponed the start because of the provincial lockdown to reduce the transmission of the novel coronavirus. /DARREN LUM Staff FILE

Lockdown pauses Storm hockey season

by **DARREN LUM**
Times Staff

This story was filed prior to the provincial announcement related to further measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19. A follow-up article about the latest development will appear in a future edition.

The Highland Storm Minor Hockey Association did all it could to ensure hockey was played this year, president of the Highland Storm Minor Hockey Association Jason Morissette said.

Disappointed by the result of the provincial lockdown, which has caused a postponement to the second session of the Storm's 2020-2021 year, Morissette said there are no regrets about the hundreds of hours already invested by the many volunteers to enable the start and the completion of the first session.

"A heck of a lot of work went into getting this going. Obviously, I feel bad for the kids, the players because they're not allowed to start the second session right off the hop, right? And then just looking, I guess the hard part is we always knew ... when we were planning and doing things, getting things really organized and putting in all that work certainly the questions were, 'Gee, you know, man, it would be kind of crummy, if we do all this work, all these meetings and all the hours we're putting in, and all of a sudden it gets cancelled,'" he said. "However, the response obviously too is that, but we might not get cancelled."

The 28-day provincial lockdown started on Dec. 26 and it has halted all activities at the A.J. LaRue Arena in Haliburton, including minor hockey until Jan. 23. With rising COVID-19 cases in the province, lockdown is likely to continue and jeopardize the Storm from starting its second season.

The president offered a silver lining

to this situation.

The Storm's executive committee, its volunteers such as COVID leads, coaches, managers and trainers, the players and their guardians and parents did everything they could to get the year started, which included the first session that ended with the start of school winter holidays, he said. Added to the Storm's challenges included a lost week during the first season to an unforeseen water break at the arena.

Morissette said the focus for this year has always been on what was within the control of the executive and its volunteers and not on what might happen.

"If you're not prepared and we're not ready to go and we don't have a product organized and do all that work, then basically you're giving up, and saying, 'no season at all.' Of course, like anything, we can't ever feel really bad ourselves about it because it's out of our control. It's not personally something we've done or that we didn't do from the hockey point of view, the association," he said.

He adds the committee acknowledges the frustration being felt by players, their parents and guardians, volunteers, and the coaches in light of the lockdown. However, this is bigger than Haliburton, as it's being felt across the province and within all areas of organized sport.

"But everybody is going to be frustrated that is doing recreational stuff everywhere right now because everything organized is basically on hold for 28 days," he said, referring to hearing about the lockdown initially.

Morissette said this could be an opportunity for players to spend time outdoors, building and playing on rinks to have fun and build skills.

"Just like it was back when I was a kid, right? Maybe we'll see people out there. Again, it's going to be kind of lonely though because you can't phone

see BOARD page 12

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Committee acknowledges contributions that made season possible

from page 11

up 10 buddies and say, ‘let’s go play shinny’ because you’re not allowed to do that. But you can certainly be out there with your siblings, or with your parent, dad, or mom, or whatever. Out there skating, practising your skills and your shot,” he said.

This was part of the training that helped the area’s most well-known and established hockey players, he added. Retired NHL players from this area include Ron Stackhouse and Bernie Nicholls. Current NHLer Matt Duchene is well-known for how his home workouts and daily shooting drills at his childhood Haliburton home contributed to his achievements.

The president said before the postponement to the second session there was a coaches’ meeting to acquire feedback about how to improve the player experience for the second season.

He estimates close to 85 per cent of the feedback about the first season was positive, but one area to improve was to provide greater motivation for the highest skilled players, particularly with the under-11 players. The skill disparity between players created a situation when the higher calibre players were disengaged. When and, if, a second season is held, players of equal skill and ability will play together for games. Another consideration would be to add four-on-four games to age categories younger than midget-aged

players (midget-aged players were already playing four-on-four) instead of the three-on-three games, which were held in the first session. This wasn’t considered possible in the first session, Morissette said, because of added costs and a shortage of available officials in the province. This situation hasn’t changed, but officials are now open to refereeing the games without a partner as a “pilot project.” He expects feedback from officials on its long-term viability when games resume. He’s seen other hockey associations hold “organized scrimmage” games when a coach would referee the game.

Laying the ground work down to have a year was important not just for the present, but for the future of hockey in the community, Morissette said.

“The No. 1 goal was to keep us together. To keep our association united and together. Keep our numbers together and keep our numbers strong,” he said.

He adds there has been some hockey associations in the province that haven’t even started a season. In some of those places, he said, there has been a steady decline for player registration over the years. The pandemic has accelerated further decline. Part of the challenge for minor hockey associations such as the Storm has included staying relevant to all players, beginners, novices, intermediate and advanced. This means keeping players interested in playing with COVID-19 restrictions, which has included the elimination of

travel for competitive play.

The return of the Storm for the second session of the year was supposed to have coincided with the return from winter holidays for students in the first week of January. Morissette said 95 per cent of the players were expected to return. He said this is owed to the hard work by the Storm and listening to the volunteer coaches.

Everybody involved has done their best to make hockey work this season in the face of COVID-19 restrictions. The message to everyone volunteering involved during this year is clear.

“Hey, we’re planning and keeping together, and we’re trying to keep our skill set together. We’re trying to keep our membership, our players and volunteers together in hope that in the fall we’re back to some type of hockey that you’re more used to,” Morissette said.

A lesson taken from session one was for transparency related to decision making despite any perceived inefficiency.

“Coming into session two we wanted to basically get more feedback from the volunteers. Get more feedback in terms of being more transparent on planning stuff so it makes practical sense as well to give ownership to the programming to the coaches,” he said.

The open-minded attitude adopted by everyone involved this hockey year has been a positive aspect that can’t be downplayed.

“The coaches and volunteers, the asso-

ciation and the refs too. They’re being open minded and that’s really good. In hockey, that’s not easy. You got a lot of people used to a certain way,” he said, referencing the high level of organization for hockey.

He recognizes not everyone will be happy, but the association is striving to do its best despite the odds.

Shared with coaches, the Storm’s “no return” date for a second session is Feb. 15.

“Really, for all the work and all the planning, all the stuff that would have to go into it, to turn around and go and do four weeks just wouldn’t be practical. We certainly do not want to have to do that. We’re hoping that this lockdown works and makes a difference and we can come out of this,” he said. “The extra time length in there is something we would have to go and see what the OMHA [Ontario Minor Hockey Association] is going to do because they have dates they have there. So, we’d have to go and see what they’re doing like a season extension.”

Morissette said if there isn’t a second session a refund will be given or the second session’s fees will be carried over to the next season.

If the lockdown ends as scheduled, then the second session will start with practices during the week, followed by games. There is hope for a second session this year.

“It will be a very happy day if the 28 days ends and we get to do a second season. Again, all the work,” Morissette said.

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Level: Beginner

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Answers on page 14

Enhanced powers for police, bylaw officers

from page 1

And close no later than 8 p.m.,” the release reads. “The restricted hours of operation do not apply to stores that primarily sell food, pharmacies, gas stations, convenience stores, and restaurants for takeout or delivery.”

The release also says that “non-essential construction is further restricted.”

In a press conference on Jan. 12, Premier Doug Ford and members of his cabinet said the declaration of a second state of emergency in the province will give police officers and bylaw officers enhanced powers of enforcement, including the ability to break up gatherings of more than five people. Ford asks that all employers who could have employees work from home do so.



Paul Heffer captured an unusual winter sighting of a robin, taking a break in a crab apple tree.

Lakefront Property Owners,

Are you aware of the proposed Shoreline Bylaw that the County of Haliburton is currently moving forward with? If not, please feel free to go to the Haliburton County Home Builders Associations website to view the latest draft. Here are a few points that should interest you if you own lakefront property:

- The County Council is recommending that our local municipalities no longer sell the Shore Road Allowance to lakefront property owners.
- The objectives of this bylaw is to achieve 75% natural shoreline including undeveloped lots and it states that the current average for Haliburton County lakes is 47% natural shoreline.
- County Council feels that it is imperative to have this by-law passed by Spring 2021 even though we are in the midst of a global pandemic. A bylaw of this magnitude should include public townhall meetings and this is not possible in these times.

If you have any questions, we at the HCHBA recommend that you write, email, or call your municipal elected officials with your comments or concerns. The Draft Bylaw and Questions and Answers can be found on our website under 'Resources' at www.hchba.ca



Haliburton County
Home Builders Association
www.hchba.ca

#Building with the Environment in Mind

Baby Boesveld the county’s first of the year

by SUE TIFFIN
Times Staff

At 3:55 on the morning of January 8, just a few hours after his due date, Hunter Paul Boesveld was born at home, making him Minden’s youngest resident and the first baby in Haliburton County welcomed with support from the Midwifery Services of Haliburton-Bancroft.

Hunter’s parents, Scott and Kate-lynn Boesveld, are new to the community too, having moved here at the end of October from Cambridge after buying Ray’s Place on Hwy 121. The pair are high-school sweethearts, and also grew up living kitty corner from each other their entire lives, with Kate-lynn joking that she’s the “girl next door.” Kate-lynn said their first child came quickly, so having a home birth option was reassuring rather than worrying about getting to the hospital in time. In the few months they’ve been here, they were able to make their house their home, comfortable for Hunter’s arrival.

Hunter makes Taylr Jane Boesveld, who turned two in October, a big sister. She reportedly loves holding, hugging and kissing her baby brother. He is also loved by fur siblings Cinder and Ella, border collies with a keen interest in the wee babe.

Although Hunter was admitted to McMaster Hospital for some testing, his parents said on Jan. 11 that he is doing well.

Stephanie Simon, registered midwife with the Midwifery Services of Haliburton-Bancroft, said that while January is a light month this year – possibly due to the beginning of the pandemic – the rest of 2021 will “definitely make up for it.” Babies expected to join the world in January are mostly from the Bancroft area, with many new additions from Minden. Haliburton’s first baby of the year is expected toward the end of the month, and a new resident in Highlands East in late February.

Last year, the local midwives provided support to 98 clients and 99 babies – 53 from Haliburton County, with 26 being born at home, two in a hotel and 70 in hospital.



Haliburton-Bancroft, was greeted upon arrival by his older sister, Taylr, and two furry siblings, Cinder and Ella.

“Although 2021 is off to a slow start in terms of expected births, the majority of 2021 is above average for birth numbers,” said Simon. “For comparison, 99 babies in 2020, whereas 2021 January to August is already above 90. And that’s with January numbers being lower than expected.”

The Midwifery Services of Haliburton-Bancroft has been encouraging residents to call as early as possible in pregnancy to avoid being put on a waiting list.

“We continue to do our best to provide care to those who call as we are cognizant that maternity care options are limited within the county,” said Simon.

She said the past year was a busy one for the practice, with midwives joining and leaving the team, as well as the ever-changing days of pandemic.

“It’s hard to believe that many of the families who are hav-

ing babies now will never have seen their midwives faces without masks,” said Simon. “And likewise, we haven’t seen the full faces of some clients until they’re in labour. We know that the changes haven’t been easy for our clients and our community but we do want to thank everyone for the support. Especially thank you to all of the families who had to adjust to changing guidelines for appointments, ultrasounds and birth – for waiting in your car instead of the waiting room, adapting to phone appointments, arranging childcare for your visits, having limited access for hospital visitors and for taking the lack of laughing gas for labour in stride – don’t worry, it’s back. And now, more than ever, thank you for staying home.”

For more information about the Midwifery Services of Haliburton-Bancroft, visit mshb.ca or call 705-457-9992.

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1	5	2	8	9	4	7	3	6
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Magnesium’s magic

OUR BODIES require both macronutrients (carbohydrates, proteins and fats) and micronutrients (vitamins and minerals) to function. When we’re lacking in any one of the nutrients the body cannot perform optimally. All of the required nutrients are available in food. A balanced diet gives us exactly what we need. Messed up eating habits is the biggest cause of a nutrient deficiency.

Magnesium is one of the minerals that plays an important role in our health. It supports muscles and nerve function and energy productions. Muscles cramps can be an indication of a magnesium deficiency. Prolonged low levels of magnesium have been linked to hypertension, heart disease, type 2 diabetes and osteoporosis.

If you’re concerned that you’re not getting enough magnesium review your diet before you reach for the supplement that comes in a bottle. Too much magnesium from foods isn’t a concern for healthy adults but the same can’t be said for supplements. High doses from supplements or medication can cause nausea, abdominal cramping and diarrhea. Once again, Mother Nature comes through for us!

The recommended daily dose of magnesium ranges from 310 to 420 milligrams depending on your age and sex. Nuts,

seeds, whole grains, leafy vegetables, milk and yogurt are all high in magnesium. Here are some specific sources:

- Dark chocolate (my favourite): 64 milligrams in a 28 gram serving.
- Avocado: 58 milligrams in a medium avocado.
- Cashews: 82 milligrams in a 28-gram serving.
- Pumpkin seeds: 150 milligrams in 28-gram serving.
- Black Beans: 120 milligrams in a 1-cup serving.
- Spinach: 157 milligrams in a 1-cup serving.

With all these great choices reaching for a pill should be the last resource and not a last- ing one. If you need a supplement go for it but look at it as a temporary fix like wearing a cast when you’ve broken a bone. Changing eating habits might just help you get back on track.

Why would you want to wear a cast for any longer than you have it to? Exactly my point.

Something to think about.
Laurie Sweig is a certified personal fitness trainer and spinning instructor. She owns and operates The Point for Fitness. She can be reached at laurie@thepointforfitness.com.



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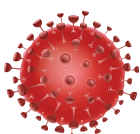
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COVID-19



Due to the pandemic's 28-day provincial lockdown both of our offices will be closed to the public until Monday, January 25th. Our newspapers will still be printing as usual during this time.

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In Memory of Norton Garry
Who passed away January 8, 2020

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We'll always remember you Dad. There will never be another one to replace you in our hearts or the love we will always have for you.

You are missed so very much.
Love Sandria, Michele, John & Julia

Willison, Dennis
Of St. Thomas passed away at his late residence on Friday, January 8th, 2021 at the age of 74.

Beloved husband and best friend of Christina (nee Kennaway) Willison of over 51 years. Dearly loved father of Tanya Goddard (Craig), Travis Willison (Sandra) and Brian Willison (Rebecca). Adored grandfather of Daniel, Mackenzie, Emma, Olivia, Samuel and Oliver. Dear brother of Wayne (Molly) and Paul (Daphne). He will be sadly missed by a number of nieces and nephews.

Dennis was born in Galt, Ontario on April 19th, 1946, son of the late Harold William and Carmel (Baker) Willison.

Due to COVID-19, a private visitation will be held on Tuesday and a private funeral service will be held on Wednesday at Williams Funeral Home, 45 Elgin St., St. Thomas with interment in Aylmer Cemetery. Remembrances may be made to the Canadian Cancer Society.

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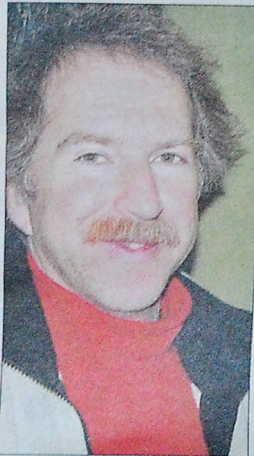
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LOOK INSIDE



Artistic formations

John Etches' photography shows the beauty of earth's creation.
See page 10



Year in review

The Highlands escapes the worst of 2003 - SARS, West Nile and the August blackout.

See page 3

In Quotes

"We don't know what we want to be."

Carol Moffatt, looking back on 2003, page 3

Dumps' time is up

Lochlin, Ingoldsby and Iron Mine sites are in jeopardy of being closed

by JERRY GROZELLE
Times staff

Some of the Minden Hills landfill sites have been placed on life support. The Lochlin, Ingoldsby and Iron Mine sites are in jeopardy of being closed in the near future — much sooner than expected.

A change in consultants has resulted in a change in the estimated life expectancy of the municipality's landfill sites.

Visitors to the Lochlin dump recently were greeted with a sign that declared the landfill site was closed. The landfill has since been reopened, but is now only accepting household garbage. In addition, the Lochlin dump is being used as a transfer site only until the dilemma of whether it is at capacity is resolved. Garbage taken to the Lochlin site is being transferred to the Scotch Line dump.

Minden Hills Reeve Ross Rigney said he is very upset about the situation. "The Ministry of the Environment is putting a lot of pressure on us," he said.

The problem arose when the municipality tendered for consultants to evaluate the township's landfill sites. The company that previously did the evaluations lost the bid to SGS Lakefield Research. The new consultant's research came to a different conclusion than the previous one — Robinson Consultants of Ottawa.

Rigney can't explain why the two consultants have come to different conclusions, but Minden Hills will investigate the situation to determine if Robinson Consultants' cal-

see COUNCILLOR page 5



Martha Perkins/TIMES

New Year's with a splash

With surprisingly gleeful abandon — considering how cold she's about to become — Sandy Patenaud leaps into a hole cut through the ice of Lake Kashagawigamog on January 1 as part of Allsaw Pentecostal Church's celebration of 2004's arrival. Story and photos on page 11.

Gallery expansion costlier than planned

by SHERYL LOUCKS
Times staff

Minden Hills council will soon have to decide whether to accept a tender for the 2,000 sq. ft. expansion of the Minden Hills Cultural Centre that is \$140,000 more than the pro-

ject's existing budget.

The tenders, opened on December 5, ranged from \$650,000 to \$519,000; the last estimated cost of the expansion project in September was \$377,000. The tenders are valid for 60 days and the centre's board of directors asked for time

for the centre's administrator Laurie Carmount to write additional grant applications to cover the extra expenditure.

Carmount says the board's reaction to the tenders has been to not panic. They submitted to council a revamped funding pro-

see MINDEN HILLS page 4

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